ground infrastructure, aircraft type and other technical parameters. Some of the international airports do handle more movements than handled by AAI at Mumbai and Delhi airports.

Regional Air Services by IA

1370. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is looking for regional flights in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, U.P. and Karnataka in collaboration with the respective States; and

(b) if so, what is the response of the State Governments for operating regional flights by Indian Airlines with their collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Alliance Air, subsidiary of Indian Airlines has held preliminary discussions in this regard with the Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka and U.P. Indian Airlines has recently submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) against an advertisement issued by Government of Jharkhand for operation of air services to/ from Ranchi and Jamshedpur under a subsidy scheme.

Growth Rate of Air Passengers at Madurai Airport

1371. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the growth rate of air passengers at Madurai airport;

(b) what new facilities have been provided at Madurai airport for the benefit of the passengers; and

(c) what is the stage of expansions proposed at Madurai airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The annual growth rate of air passengers at Madurai airport during the last three years was 21.4%.

(b) and (c) various upgradation/development works such as extension and strengthening of existing runway, expansion of apron to increase parking capacity and provision of additional taxiway, ground